(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to ban registration of all commercial vehicles both of diesel and petrol, without CNG engines in the Capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented to make the Capital free from air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the water pollution in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and vehicular pollution levels have come down. The Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand levels at Nizamuddin and Agra Canal (Okhla) have come down from about 8.0 mg/litre to 5 mg/litre and 12.0 mg/litre to 5 mg/litre respectively. Percentage reduction in vehicular pollution in terms of Carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide and lead has been observed to the extent of about 22%, 5%, 20% and 49% respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Tiger Population**

939. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have identified the factors posing threat to the tiger population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of tigers, as per the latest survey, State-wise; and

(d) the necessary steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect and preserve this species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Degradation and fragmentation of tiger habitat due to

needs of development.

(ii) Enhancement in international demand for tiger and tiger parts.

(iii) Poisoning and revengeful killing due to depredation of livestock and human casualties.

(iv) Insurgency and extremism in certain areas.

(v) Shortage of resources for enforcement.

(c) The number of tigers estimated as reported by the States is given in Statement-I. (*See* below)

(d) The steps taken by the Government of India to protect tiger are as per enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Steps taken by the Government of India*

*National Level*

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.

2. Training Programs and Workshop have been organised to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

3. A special co-ordiantion committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI and representative of the Chiarman, Central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.

4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure including armed

squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park managers.

5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valour has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.
6. The State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governments Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.
8. Supporting programmers of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
10. Site specific force in Project Tiger Area.
11. Special Strike Force all over the Country to control Trade.
12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

*International Level:*

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, *i.e.* Global Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:—
   (i) A protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China.
   (ii) An MOU with his Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.
   (iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.
3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.

4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action points for conservation of tiger both at national and international level.

**Statement-II**

*Tiger Population*

| S.No. | Name of the State | 1972 | 1979 | 1984 | 1989 | 1993 | 1997 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Tamil Nadu | 33 | 65 | 97 | 95 | 97 | 62 |
| 2. | Maharashtra | 160 | 174 | 301 | 417 | 276 | 257 |
| 3. | West Bengal | 73 | 296 | 352 | 353 | 335 | 361 |
| 4. | Karnataka | 102 | 156 | 202 | 257 | 305 | 350 |
| 5. | Bihar | 85 | 110 | 138 | 157 | 137 | 103 |
| 6. | Assam | 147 | 300 | 376 | 376 | 325 | 458 |
| 7. | Rajasthan | 74 | 79 | 96 | 99 | 64 | 58 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 457 | 529 | 786 | 985 | 912 | 927 |
| 9. | Uttar Pradesh | 262 | 487 | 698 | 735 | 465 | 475 |
| 10. | Andhra Pradesh | 35 | 148 | 164 | 235 | 197 | 171 |
| 11. | Mizoram | — | 65 | 33 | 18 | 28 | 12 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 8 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 1 |
| 13. | Goa Daman & Diu | — | — | — | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 14. | Orissa | 142 | 173 | 202 | 243 | 226 | 194 |
| | Total | 1578 | 2589 | 3454 | 3981 | 3375 | 3435 |
| 15. | Kerala | 60 | 134 | 89 | 45 | 57 | N.R. |
| 16. | Meghalya | 32 | 35 | 125 | 34 | 53 | N.R. |
| 17. | Manipur | 1 | 10 | 6 | 31 | — | N.R. |
| 18. | Tripura | 7 | 6 | 5 | — | — | N.R. |
| 19. | Nagaland | 80 | 102 | 104 | 104 | 83 | N.R. |
| 20. | Arunachal Pradesh | 69 | 139 | 219 | 135 | 180 | N.R. |
| 21. | Sikkim | — | — | 2 | 4 | 2 | N.R. |
| 22. | Haryana | — | — | 1 | — | — | N.R. |
| | Total | 249 | 426 | 551 | 353 | 375 | N.R. |

N.R.— Not reported by States